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Application Number : 10/520,995

Applicant: Mcleish, Graham John

Examiner : James R. Harvey

Art Unit : 2833

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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U.S.A.

13th March 2006

Response by Applicant to Examination Report of 16th December 2005

on application No: 10/520,995

Dear Sir

In response to the objections raised in the examination report of 16th December, 2005 please find enclosed an amended specification with the proper headings and appropriate amendments as requested and explained later.

In the endeavour to expedite matters I have also amended the claims, in particular Claim 1 and I trust that, as a result of the amended claim 1, it is now apparent, therefore, on further examination of each piece of prior art, that none of them actually anticipates applicant's now amended Claim 1. Since each of the subsequent Claims is now appendant to amended Claim 1, it is believed that the Examining Authority, in the light of this submission, will feel able to acknowledge the novelty and inventiveness of each of Applicants' Claims as now presented and, as now made clear in the amended claims, this ability of the Applicant's connector to automatically seek and locate to a concentric connection represents a real technical benefit conferring novelty and inventiveness.

I respectfully suggest that on a subsequent analysis of their respective technical contents, it can readily be seen that the Applicant's amended claims are clearly distinguished in a patentable manner from the disclosure of any of the prior documents. I also respectfully suggest, as explained in more detail below, that the aims and intentions behind these different disclosures as well as the solutions which were proposed by the respective inventors for the different perceived problems would clearly have dictated away from seeking to make any combination of the various disclosures; and there is no reason whatever to suppose that Applicant's elegant and simple solution to the problem which he saw in the specific field of the present application could readily have been foreseen from these documents without inventive step.

Let me take each objection and cited document in turn. In order to hopefully clarify things I have included the original objections in *italics*.